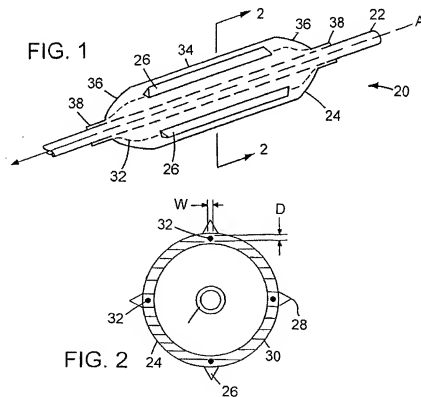


REMARKS

In response to the office action mailed February 1, 2008, Applicants amended claims 1, 14-18, 43, 73-78, and 82-87 and added new claims 88-93. Claims 1-4, 6-18, 20-34, 43, 73-78, and 82-93 are presented for examination.

Embodiment of Applicants' Claimed Device

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2 of Applicants' application, which are reproduced below, Applicants disclose a balloon 24 having a body portion 34, tapered portions 36, and sleeve portions 38. See, e.g., Application, ¶ [0049]. Applicants explain that co-extruded discrete striped portions 32 can extend for substantially the entire length of the balloon 24 (i.e., through the body portion 34, the tapered portions 36, and the sleeve portions 38 of the balloon 24). See, e.g., id., ¶¶ [0049] and [0069]. Cutting elements 26 can be attached to the balloon 24 centered over the striped portions 32. See, e.g., id., ¶¶ [0043] and [0068].



Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 6-18, 20-29, 31, 33, 34, 43, 73-78, and 82-84 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grayzel et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,942,680 (“Grayzel”) in view of Vigil et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,336,234 (“Vigil”). Claims 1-4, 6-13, 73, 76, 82, and 85 cover medical devices including a balloon having a first material and a discrete strip of a second material encapsulated by the first material when the balloon is inflated, the discrete strip of the second material extending along substantially the entire length of the balloon, and a cutting element carried by the balloon centered over the second material. Claims 14-18, 20-34, 74, 77, 83, and 86 cover medical devices including a balloon having a first material and a discrete striped portion encapsulated by the first material when the balloon is inflated, the discrete striped portion extending along substantially the entire length of the balloon, and a cutting element carried by the balloon centered over the discrete striped portion. Claims 43, 75, 78, and 84 cover medical devices including a balloon having a first material and a discrete striped portion encapsulated by the first material when the balloon is inflated, the discrete striped portion extending along substantially the entire length of the balloon, and a cutting element attached to the balloon centered over the discrete striped portion. As described in Applicants’ application, Applicants’ balloon, along its length, includes a body portion, a tapered portion, and a sleeve portion. Grayzel and Vigil, taken alone and in combination, fail to disclose or suggest each of the above-noted features of Applicants’ claims.

Referring to Grayzel’s Fig. 5B, which is reproduced below, Grayzel describes a device 110 including a balloon 112 with embedded stiffening members 114. See, e.g., id., col. 9, lines 27-30. Grayzel does not disclose that his stiffening members extend along substantially an entire length of his balloon. Nor would one of ordinary skill in the art have modified Grayzel’s system to extend the stiffening members along the entire length of his balloon. Grayzel’s disclosure, for example, does not enable one of ordinary skill in the art to practically achieve such an arrangement.

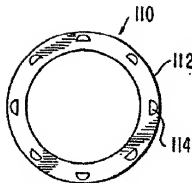
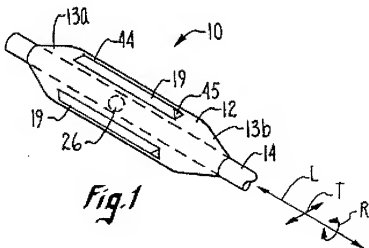


FIG. 5B

Referring to Vigil's Fig. 1, which is reproduced below, Vigil discloses a balloon catheter 10 including a balloon 12 having cutting elements 19 mounted onto its outer surface. See, e.g., Vigil, col. 3, lines 58-64. Vigil discloses no discrete strip of second material (or discrete striped portion) encapsulated by his balloon material, let alone a discrete strip of second material (or discrete striped portion) that extends along substantially an entire length of his balloon. Nor would one of ordinary skill have modified Vigil's balloon to provide such an arrangement.



In view of the foregoing, Vigil and Grayzel, taken alone and in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a balloon having a first material and a discrete strip of a second material (or a

discrete striped portion) encapsulated by the first material when the balloon is inflated, the discrete strip of the second material (or the discrete striped portion) extending along substantially the entire length of the balloon, and a cutting element carried by (or attached to) the balloon centered over the second material (or the discrete striped portion). Therefore, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Applicants' claims 1-4, 6-18, 20-29, 31, 33, 34, 43, 73-78, and 82-84 as being unpatentable over Grayzel in view of Vigil.

Claims 30 and 85-87 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grayzel in view of Vigil and further in view of Roychowdhury, U.S. Patent 5,587,125 ("Roychowdhury"). But Roychowdhury fails to cure the deficiencies of Grayzel and Vigil discussed above. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grayzel in view of Vigil and further in view of Spears, U.S. Patent 5,092,841 ("Spears"). But Spears fails to cure the deficiencies of Grayzel and Vigil discussed above. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Please apply all charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 10527-395001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 15, 2008



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